

Impact of SEZs on environment

314. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been undertaken by Government about the impact of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) on environment especially when they are approved in barren/waste land or otherwise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that waste land in many places plays a significant role in maintaining underground water table and ecological balance; and

(c) in what manner Government intend to address this issues, so that, in the race of development of export permanent long term damage to the environment and ecology is not inflicted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. However, the activity for establishing Special Economic Zone requires prior environmental clearance as per the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. Accordingly, the project authorities are required to undertake Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Study based on which the proposal is considered for grant/rejection of environmental clearance.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Environment Impact Assessment Study identifies the significant adverse environmental impacts of the proposed developmental activity and these are addressed through an Environmental Management Plan to mitigate and minimize the adverse impacts and accordingly specific and general conditions are stipulated while according environmental clearance by the Government.

Violation of Coastal Regulations Zones by Goa

315. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether provisions of Coastal Regulation Zones are being constantly violated in the State of Goa;